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Stephenson Area Public Schools • Stephenson, Michigan 49887 • Phone 906-753-2221
March 27, 2000 Fax 906-753-4676

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

"IN THE MATTER OF: REQUEST FOR REVIEW BY STEPHENSON AREA PUBLIC
SCHOOLS OF DECISION OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR"
Reference: FCC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am requesting a review of the Administrators Decision on Spin Change, application
number 144087, funding 274347, funding year 1999.

Our Internet provider changed from Ameritech to Merit after the 1999-2000 year 471
application had been filed. Perhaps the reason for change was not clear in my letter to the
SLD, requesting a change in service provider. I had enclosed copy of the letter from
Merit to our school, explaining the necessity of finding a new Internet provider.
Stephenson Area Public Schools had an agreement with Ameritech and Merit, but
because Merit was discontinuing its services with Ameritech, and due to our location in
the Upper Penninsula, we had no choice but to find another provider. In our opinion,
Merit's decision to sever ties with Ameritech caused a breach in our 3 year contract for
Internet services. I have enclosed copies of the Letter of Appeal, the Administrators
Decision letter, and a copy of the letter from Merit to our school for your review.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (906) 753-2221 ext 112 or
Email Jackie_Miller@hotmail.com

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Jackie Miller
Business Manager

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UNIVERSAL SERVICE
ADMINISTRATIVE CO.

SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES DIVISION

Box 125 – Correspondence Unit
100 South Jefferson Road
Whippany, New Jersey 07981

Administrator's Decision on SPIN Change

March 6, 2000

Jackie Miller
Stephenson Area Public Schools
526 W Division
Stephenson, MI 49887

Re: Application Number: 144087
 Funding Request Numbers: 274347
 Funding Year: 1999

After thorough review and investigation of your letter seeking approval to change Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) and service provider for the funding year listed above, the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company has made the following determination on each Funding Request Number that was included in your inquiry for the above referenced Application Number.

Funding Request Numbers: FRN's listed above:
Decision on inquiry to change SPIN number and service provider: Denied

The following explanation is provided to inform you of the reason for our decision on these Funding Request Numbers.

The SLD has finalized its policy and procedures for considering requests from applicants to change SPINs and allow substitution of service providers. The only circumstances under which the SLD can approve such SPIN change requests are:

Service provider refuses to participate in the E-rate program

Service provider has gone out of business

Service provider has breached its contract with the applicant

It has been determined that your situation did not fall into the above mentioned categories, therefore your request has been denied.

If, as a result of this decision, you decide to rescind your request to change service provider, you may do so by filling in the box below and faxing it to the number indicated. This will facilitate the processing of your application as originally filed. You will also need to file a Form 486 indicating the Service Start Date with the original service provider identified in your Form 471. However, please note that if you have already begun to receive services from the unapproved new service provider, no funds will be available from the E-rate program for that service provider.

February, 23, 2000

Letter of Appeal, SLD
Box 125 Correspondence Unit
100 South Jefferson Road
Whippany, NJ 07981

To Whom It May Concern,

I have recently taken over the paperwork for the Universal Service Fund at our school and have been preparing the necessary forms that have been overlooked. In preparing the 486 forms for year 2 (1999-2000) I have noticed our internet access vendor changed after form 471 had been completed. I am requesting the funds requested and approved under Ameritech be changed to Merit Network, Inc.

The details of the funding request are as follows:

Funding Request Number: 0000274347 Funding Status: Funded
SPIN: 143001727 Service Provider Name: Ameritech-Michigan
Provider Contract Number: C
Services Ordered: Internet Access
Earliest Possible Effective Date of Discount: 07/01/1999
Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2000
Pre-Discount Cost: \$21,900.00
Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: 75%
Funding Commitment Decision: \$16,425.00 - 471 approved as submitted

Change to

SPIN:143004331 Service Provider Name: Merit Network, Inc.
Services Ordered: Internet Access
Effective Date: 7/01/1999
Contract Expiration Date: 6/30/2000
Pre-Discount Cost: \$16,600.00
Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: 75%
Funding Commitment Decision: \$12,450.00

Enclosed is a copy of the contract with Merit for internet access. Although this 3 year contract was dated from 7/1998 - 6/2001 this contract did not start until May 1999.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (906) 753-2221 ext 112
or email Jackie.Miller@hotmail.com

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jackie Miller
Business Manager

enclosed packet provides detailed information about Merit products and services. At your request, we will be pleased to provide specific pricing information for a direct attachment, and follow it up with the quality service and support that today's Internet standards demand. Please feel free to contact Merit at 734-764-9430 or send e-mail to sales@merit.edu. A technical sales consultant will be happy to discuss this matter with you and answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JCO', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeffrey C. Ogden
Associate Director, MichNet

cc: Charles E. Kalhoefer
Stephenson Area Public Schools

encl.